

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SMS-01 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 SES-02 /085 W
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R 221408Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8652
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1096

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, IC, CZ
SUBJECT: ICELAND REMEMBERS PRAGUE 1968

1. TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS RECEIVED EXTRAORDINARY AMOUNT OF ATTENTION LOCALLY. DURING WEEKEND, STATE TELEVISION RECALLED PRAGUE SPRING IN STORY AND PICTURES. EVENT WAS ALSO COMMEMORATED BY ALL OF ICELAND'S MAJOR DAILIES WHICH DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO HISTORICAL REVIEW, NEWS REPORTS, AND COMMENTARIES. THJODVILJINN, DAILY OF COMMUNIT-LED PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE, FEATURED SEVERAL STORIES AND EDITORIAL CONDEMNING SOVIET INVASION.

2. TWO COMPETING PROTEST RALLIES WERE HELD IN DOWNTOWN REYKJAVIK AUGUST 21. ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY STATION
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OPPONENTS, GROUP WHOSE PRIME OBJECTIVE IS REMOVAL OF NATO BASE FROM ICELAND, ATTRACTED ABOUT 400 PEOPLE IN RALLY IN FRONT OF SOVIET EMBASSY. DEMONSTRATION WAS BASICALLY REPLAY OF LAST YEAR'S PROTEST (77 REYKJAVIK 1138) WITH SAME BANNERS AND PLACARDS IN EVIDENCE. SPEAKERS USED OCCASION TO CALL FOR REMOVAL OF NATO BASE AT KEFLAVIK AS WELL AS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA. PARALLEL

THEMES WERE HEARD IN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT BREZHNEV WHICH CALLED FOR "WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET MILITARY FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA/SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM FIGHT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA/ OPPOSITION TO SUPERPOWER ARMAMENTS/ICELAND OUT OF NATO, SOLDIERS OUT OF ICELAND".

3. SLIGHTLY LARGER CROWD ATTENDED ANTI-SOVIET RALLY IN REYKJAVIK'S MAIN SQUARE. DEMONSTRATION WAS ORGANIZED BY YOUTH LEADERS OF ICELAND' THREE MAJOR MODERATE PARTIES, AND SPEECHES ATTACKED SOVIET FOR CRUSHING DUOCEK GOVERNMENT AND FOR CONTINUING VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. LEADER OF YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENCE PARTY REMINDED LISTENERS THAT MANDATE TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT IS IN HANDS OF LEADER OF PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (LUDVIK JOSEPPSON), MAN WHO EXPRESSED COMPLETE UNAWARENESS OF TRIALS OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS EVEN AS THOSE TRIALS WERE FRONT PAGE NEWS FEW WEEKS AGO.
BLAKE

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